GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:462
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
CONSTRUCTION OF INDO IRANIAN GAS PIPE LINE
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Iranian Joint Committee has been set up to examine all the aspects of constructing a pipe line in order to transport natural gas from Iran to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of meetings of the said Joint Committee held so far; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) -(c) During the visit of EAM to Iran in May, 2000, it was decided by the two countries to set up a Joint Working Committee to go into the transfer of Iranian gas to India. The mandate of the Committee is to examine all aspects relating to the supply of Iranian gas to India, including different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues. The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held in Tehran on August 19-20, 2000.

(d)
(i) During the course of the first meeting of the Joint Committee, different possible modes of transfer of Iranian gas to India were examined. These included pipelines as well as liquefied natural gas. It was agreed the mode of transfer should be long-term, cost-effective and secure.

(ii) The second meeting of the Joint Working Committee is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 22-23 November, 2000 during which further deliberations will be held on the issue.